AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application;

--1. (Currently Amended) An audio data signal processing method, in which a supplied audio data signal can be in one of a compressed data state and an uncompressed data state, for performing a process for decoding the supplied audio data signal, comprising the steps of:

detecting whether zero data continues for a predetermined period of time in said supplied audio data signal;

determining, when zero data are detected to continue for said predetermined period of time, that said supplied audio data are in the compressed data state and determining, when zero data is not detected to continue for said predetermined period of time, that said supplied audio data are in the uncompressed state; and

performing a first decoding operation on said supplied audio data when said supplied audio data are determined to be in the compressed data state in said step of determining and

performing a second decoding operation when said supplied audio data are determined to be in the uncompressed data state and said supplied data are determined to be in the uncompressed data state in said step of determining,

wherein upon detection that zero data continue for said predetermined period of time, said decoding is performed by switching said supplied audio data ~~signed~~ signal to said first decoding operation based on a sync signal of said supplied audio

data signal, and

wherein said supplied audio data are stored for said predetermined period during which it is detected whether said zero data continue, and when it is determined that said supplied data are ~~non-compressed~~ uncompressed audio data, [[the]] a result of ~~decoding said supplied audio data is output following the result of~~ the second decoding operation of said stored audio data is output.

--2. - 4. (Cancelled)

--5. (Previously Presented) The audio signal processing method described in claim 1, wherein the output of said decoding operation is muted for said predetermined period of time during which it is detected whether zero data continue for said predetermined period of time.

--6. (Previously Presented) The audio signal processing method described in claim 1, wherein when said data supplied during said decode operation are continuous zero data, the operation for detecting whether said zero data continue for said predetermined period of time is repeated.

--7. - 9. (Cancelled)

--10. (Currently Amended) An audio signal processing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting whether zero data continue for a predetermined period of time in supplied data;

② determining means for determining that said supplied data is compressed audio data when [[the]] a result of detection by said detection means is that zero data continues for said predetermined period of time; and

decoding means for decoding said supplied data based on the result of said determination by said determining means,

wherein when said detection means detects that zero data continue for said predetermined period of time, said decoding means switches to ~~said~~ a first decoding based on a sync signal of said supplied data, and decodes said supplied data, and

wherein said determining means determines that said supplied data are uncompressed audio data when zero data are not detected continuously for said predetermined period of time and said decoding means switches to a second decoding and decodes said supplied data,

③ wherein said decoding means includes a memory for storing said supplied audio data for said predetermined period of time during which it is determined whether zero data are continuously detected, and when it is determined that said supplied data are uncompressed audio data, said audio signal processing apparatus outputs the data decoded using said second decoding from said supplied data following [[the]] output of data decoded using second decoding by said decode means from said audio data stored in said memory.

--11. - 13. (Cancelled)